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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Minnesota, Morris Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson Announces Retirement

Summary: Chancellor Johnson plans to retire as chancellor at the end of the 2015–16 academic year.

MORRIS, Minnesota (August 19, 2015)— University of Minnesota, Morris Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson plans to retire as chancellor at the end of the 2015–16 academic year. During her ten-year tenure at Morris, the campus has increased its capacity to support students, has added and renovated facilities, and has established itself in the higher education community as a national leader dedicated to sustainability.

“This year marks my tenth year as chancellor, and I decided this spring that it will be my last,” says Chancellor Johnson. “It’s the perfect time for the campus to experience new leadership: we are well positioned for the present and the future, our enrollment remains strong, our student profile represents the diversity and talent that is part of our heritage, the quality of our faculty and staff is outstanding, and our residence halls are full to overflowing.”

Chancellor Johnson made her announcement on Wednesday, August 19, at the Opening Faculty and Staff Convocation after informing University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler of her decision earlier this spring.

“Throughout her time as Chancellor, Jacquie has been a staunch advocate for the Morris campus, its students, faculty and staff,” said President Kaler. “She has provided exemplary service, strong leadership and grown the school in myriad ways. I thank her for all she has done and look forward to another successful year and smooth leadership transition.”

Chancellor Johnson became Morris’s fifth, and first female, chancellor in August 2006, and despite a challenging budget climate, successfully encouraged the campus to become stronger and more deliberate in its unique mission, to improve its visibility throughout the state and nation, and to increase its collaborations with the west central region.

During Chancellor Johnson’s tenure, the Morris campus has experienced enrollment growth and increased its capacity to support students through donor-funded scholarships and other philanthropic gifts, including three sizable gifts of land. During this time the campus also received its two largest gifts to date, both of them generous bequests. Morris also made great progress in its facilities through the establishment of a new [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\) Gold certified residence hall \(the first new dormitory since 1971\)](#), [a second wind turbine](#), [a biomass plant](#), [solar arrays](#), enhanced gardens and plantings, and [a cold-weather compost pile](#) as well as the renovation of historically significant buildings like John Q. Imholte Hall and the Welcome Center (also LEED Gold certified).

Under Chancellor Johnson’s direction and with the contributions of many colleagues, Morris has established itself as a leader and a model sustainable community in the University of Minnesota system, in the state of Minnesota, and in the country, winning several national awards related to that leadership. The campus has retained its place among the nation’s top-ranked, award-winning public liberal arts colleges. Alumni continue to report high rates of satisfaction with their Morris educations, and they exhibit strong loyalty to their alma mater.

“I will miss this place, and most of all I will miss the campus community—its candor, its outspokenness, its insistence on consultation and collaboration, its belief in this campus’s mission, and the passion it exhibits in fulfilling it,” says Chancellor Johnson.

“And I’m not gone yet,” she adds. “We have a full year of hard work and new adventures in front of us, and I expect to live this year to its fullest.”

Chancellor Johnson came to Morris from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, where she served as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty. She previously served as vice president for academic affairs at St. Martin's College in Washington and chair of the department of anthropology and sociology at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. In addition to serving on numerous local boards in the communities in which she has resided, Chancellor Johnson has been a participant in several national projects and panels related to higher education. She currently serves as a founding member of the steering committee of the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment and as a board member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Last year she served as board chair for this organization. She holds a PhD in sociology from Purdue University and a bachelor's degree from Macalester College, Saint Paul.

President Kaler will lead the next steps in the search for the Morris’s next chancellor, in consultation with the campus community. A search is expected to commence shortly, and a new chancellor will take office next summer.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.

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